

Series: David: Man of Passion and Destiny

Sermon: David 7 “End of an Era”

Scripture: 2 Samuel 22

Psalm: Psalm 18

Theme: Having a heart after God’s own heart means continually putting yourself in God’s presence, and under God’s chisel!

Text: 2 Samuel 22:47 “The Lord lives! Bless God, my rock! Let my God, the rock of my salvation, be lifted high!”

Blurb: This Sunday we look at the final chapter of the life of King David. Conflict and strife continue for the aging king. Rather than peaceful years for him, David grows weary under rebellion, famine, and war. Yet David finds rests in God’s faithful care and has inner peace because of it. What do you hope for your retirement years? What do you do when they don’t go as you hope? Come learn how you can have inner peace by resting in a solid trust in God.

Sources: *David: A Man of Passion and Destiny* by Charles R. Swindoll

Opening Song: “10,000 Reasons” - Sanctify

Welcome: Pastor David

Steven & Maria Newnum, Brazil

Terra Rica (“Rich Earth”), Brazil, since March 2013. 700 miles straight W of Rio De Janeiro

Song set: “A Mighty Fortress”

“Great Are You Lord”

“God of This City”

Worship prayer

Kids to Kid’s Church

Prayers for the World: Andrew

Offering: “What as Snow” Jonathan Edwards

Apostle’s Creed - Pastor David (in unity with all the Xns the world over)

PP#1: David: Man of Passion and Destiny. The End of an Era.

“The Lord lives! Bless God, my rock! Let my God, the rock of my salvation, be lifted high!”

-2 Samuel 22:47

David: Man of Passion and Destiny. The End of an Era. 2 Samuel 22:47 “The Lord lives! Bless God, my rock! Let my God, the rock of my salvation, be lifted high!”

PP#2: *Image of Michelangelo’s David, in the rotunda, off in the distance.*

In Florence, Italy, there’s a small gallery with a number of wonderful works of art. The Galleria Dell’Accademia di Firenze [FEE-ren-zay] (The Gallery of the Academy of Florence). Yet in the very center, through rounded arches, and under a dome ceiling, stands one of the world’s most famous works of art: Michaelangelo’s statue, *David*.

PP#3: *Image of Michelangelo’s David, in the rotunda, close up.*

This statue is a fantastic work of art, superbly representing the human form. Michelangelo chose to depict David, at what might be his greatest moment, as a teenager, having just defeated the

giant Goliath. Michelangelo sculpted him as a towering person of human history, and faith history, representing him as larger than life, himself a giant.

But as we've studied David, we've seen his incredible faith, yes, and his amazing qualities. But we've seen him during his failures, too, and his dark times of sin. David is the only person described in the Bible as having a heart after God's own heart. What does that mean? What did that look like in David? What can that look like in us? We want hearts after God's own heart, too.

Well, today we come to the end of David's life. I wonder what he would have thought of this statue. Would he claim this was his greatest moment? What would he want remembered? I think I can find in Scripture what David's desire for a sculpture of his life would be. But we'll come back to that.

PP#4: *Image of a sculpture, half finished, with part still white marble block, and part sculpture.*

Artists tell you that a good sculpture takes only two things: a marble block that can be sculpted, and someone able to carve it.

We have learned the same is true for hearts after God's own heart. It requires but two things: a heart that is able to be shaped, and a God who is able to shape it. We've seen this in David. What makes David great is not all of his amazing accomplishments. What makes him great is his willingness and eagerness to return to God's chisel. Therefore, part of what makes David a giant are his failures, or more importantly, what he does about them.

PP#5: *Image of King David in his later years, looking older.*

As the long shadows of age stretch across David's rugged face, we don't see a time of tranquil retirement, a season of rest and reflection. Having a heart after God's heart doesn't seem to bring peace, comfort, freedom from stress, a family that all gets along, or a guarantee of acting in spiritual maturity.

David's sexual sin, as forecasted by Nathan, ushers in a time of sexual sin within his own household. His oldest son, Amnon, rapes his only sister, Tamar. Absalom, Tamar's full brother, is angry when David does nothing in response, and so Absalom murders Amnon. Absalom flees into exile. He returns and leads a conspiracy against his father, eventually gathering the support of the northern tribes and leading a coup that sends David into exile. Then Absalom takes over his father's concubines, right out on the roof of the palace for all of Israel to see...the same place his father had first laid eyes on his mother. Joab, David's nephew and general, finally murders Absalom, and puts down the rebellion.

David regroups and reestablishes his rule in Jerusalem. Side note: he sets his concubines apart and although he provides for them, he keeps away from them. As he is returning to Jerusalem, David repairs relations with his people, replacing Joab with Absalom's general, and forgiving a man named Shimei [Shi MY] who led a very vocal cursing of David during the insurrection.

Nathan's forecast that David's reign would know no peace, continues to be fulfilled. Another man from Saul's family named Sheba, again rallies the Northern tribes—remember David was from the southern tribe of Judah—in another insurrection. Joab murders David's new general and quells the rebellion. After that, the Philistines once more rebel, and need to be put down.

PP#6: 2 Samuel 24 (CEB)

2 So the king said to Joab and the military commanders who were with him, "Go...and take

a census of the people so I know how many people there are.”

3 Joab said to the king, “...But why does my master the king want to do this?”

4 But the king’s word overruled Joab and the military commanders....

One more! David calls for a census of his nation. This is not bad in and of itself, but David’s motives were askew. He was getting confident in his own military might, and wanted to glory in the extent of his power. The ever shrewd Joab sees into David’s selfish motive, and tries to talk him out of it. No avail.

PP#7: 2 Samuel 24 (CEB)

9 Joab reported to the king the number of the people who had been counted: in Israel there were 800,000 strong men who could handle a sword; in Judah the total was 500,000 men.

10 But after this David felt terrible that he had counted the people. David said to the Lord, “I have sinned greatly in what I have done. Now, Lord, please take away the guilt of your servant because I have done something very foolish.”

Joab gives the report: the military is strong: 800,000 in the north, 500,000 in the south. And immediately David’s heart convicts him. He was putting his glory—and trust!—not in God, but in his armies. David again goes straight to God and laments, “I have sinned greatly...Lord, please forgive me for I have done something so foolish.”

PP#8: The End of an Era

A Heart after God’s Own Heart:

1. Putting yourself before God’s presence
2. Putting yourself under God’s chisel

Here we see again David’s heart after God’s own heart. David is not perfect, even when he has walked with God for a long time. He still messes up, and sins. But when David feels the pangs of guilt, he goes *to* God, not runs away from God. He seeks God’s presence, God’s face. And then he places himself under God’s workmanship, seeking forgiveness and being open to whatever God wants to do to chip away whatever needs to be removed, and to let God shape him, his character, and his outcome. Having a heart after God’s own heart, we learn from David, does not mean being perfect or never sinning. It means again and again putting yourself before God’s presence, and putting yourself under God’s chisel.

PP#9: *Image of the Ark of the Covenant (especially the cover/Mercy Seat) in the Holy of Holies.*

God again forgives David, but again there are consequences. You really need to read 2 Samuel. There’s so much more to the story, with twists and turns that send your head reeling. I just can’t touch on it all. One cool little tidbit: when the death angel who is punishing the people, gets to Jerusalem, God tells him to stop his sword. The angel is stopped at the very spot where Abraham was stopped from sacrificing Isaac. David builds an altar there. And that becomes the very spot where the Ark of the Covenant sat when Solomon finally built the temple. The place of the Seat of Mercy, the Mercy Seat, the cover of the Ark of the Covenant. Lots going on here with the Davidic covenant and the promised messiah to come!

PP#10: 2 Samuel 22 and Psalm 18 (CEB)

1 David spoke the words of this song to the Lord after the Lord delivered him from the power of all his enemies and from Saul.

David's later years are full of strife, conflict, and trouble, but David continues to go back to God, and because he does, David finds rest in God's faithful care. He composes a triumphant song declaring God's absolute dependability in times of turmoil. This psalm is recorded in two places: in Psalm 18 and in 2 Samuel 22. As we finish our series on David, we're going to do as David did, we're going to place ourselves in God's presence, in worship. Let's read through this Psalm this morning, as David intended it to be used in worship. I'm going to be borrowing from Charles Swindoll [*David: A Man of Passion and Destiny*, Chapter 22] as we go.

We'll read the Psalm responsively, and as we do, listen in this first part for how *God is our security*. The left side of the room reads with me.

PP#11: 2 Samuel 22:2-3 (CEB)

Left: David said:

The Lord is my solid rock, my fortress, my rescuer.

**Right: My God is my rock—I take refuge in Him!—
He's my shield and my salvation's strength,**

Left: My place of safety and my shelter.

Right: My savior! Save me from violence!

Do you hear those words: The Lord is our rock, our fortress, our rescuer, our refuge, our shield, our salvation and strength, our place of safety and shelter. Placing ourselves before God's presence is finding a place *of security*, of inner peace, of respite. Let's keep reading.

PP#12: 2 Samuel 22:4-7 (CEB)

Left: Because He is praiseworthy, I cried out to the Lord, and I was saved from my enemies.

Right: Death's waves were all around me; rivers of wickedness terrified me.

Left: The cords of the grave surrounded me; death's traps held me tight.

Right: In my distress I cried out to the Lord; I cried out to my God.

Left: God heard my voice from his temple; my cry for help reached his ears.

PP#13: 2 Samuel 22:10-11 (CEB)

Right: God parted the skies and came down; thick darkness was beneath his feet.

Left: God mounted the heavenly creatures and flew; He was seen on the wind's wings.

Right: From on high God reached down and grabbed me; He took me out of deep waters.

PP#14: 2 Samuel 22:17-20 (CEB)

Left: God saved me from my powerful enemy, saved me from my foes, who were too much for me.

Right: They came at me on the very day of my distress, but the Lord was my support.

Left: He brought me out to wide-open spaces; He pulled me out, because He delights in me.

PP#15: Putting yourself before God's presence and under God's chisel:

1. When times are tough, the Lord is our Security
"He pulled me out, because He delights in me" -2 Sam.22:20

Placing ourselves in God's presence means experiencing God as our security that grounds us when everything goes crazy. The Lord will support you. We are tossed, sometimes violently, day by day, but on the inside we can rest secure. Why? Because the Lord delights in us! Did you hear that line? "He delights in me." Hang on to that as you are being tossed! He cares for you. He delights in you. He is your security.

As we read this second section, listen for how our God is our Light. Right side, you begin:

PP#16: 2 Samuel 22:25, 28-31 (CEB)

Right: And so the Lord restored me for my righteousness, because I am clean in His eyes.

Left: You are the one who saves people who suffer, but your eyes are against the proud. You bring them down!

Right: You are my lamp, Lord; the Lord illumines my darkness.

Left: With you I can charge into battle; with my God I can leap over a wall.

Right: God! His way is perfect; the Lord's word is tried and true.

Left: He is a shield for all who take refuge in Him.

PP#17: Putting yourself before God's presence and under God's chisel:

1. When times are tough, the Lord is our Security
2. When days are dark, the Lord is our Light
"You are my lamp, Lord; the Lord illumines my darkness." -2 Sam. 22:29

God is the Light, taking away the fear in what we can't see. When your days are dark, and your path unsure, you need not fear. The Lord will guide you, step by step; He is your light. You need not be afraid. In God's presence, in His light, you have security and peace.

Back to the psalm, and as we do, hear how God gives us His strength. Right side again.

PP#18: 2 Samuel 22:32-36 (CEB)

Right: Now really, who is divine except the Lord? And who is a rock except our God?

Left: Only God! My mighty fortress, who makes my way perfect,

Right: Who makes my step as sure as the deer's, who lets me stand securely on the heights,

Left: Who trains my hands for war so my arms can bend a bronze bow.

Right: You've given me the shield of your salvation; your help has made me great.

PP#19: Putting yourself before God's presence and under God's chisel:

1. When times are tough, the Lord is our Security
2. When days are dark, the Lord is our Light
3. When our walk is weak, the Lord is our Strength.
"Your help has made me great." -2 Sam. 22:36

The Lord turned David's battlegrounds into proving grounds for his faith. For when David was at his weakest, God was at His strongest. God is not just with us, God is helping us! It's not that everything goes well. Rather, it's when we are in God's presence, then God uses the chaos of life as His chisel, working on us, in us, making us strong, making us great.

We come to the end of David's song. And as we do, listen for how he says that God is his hope.

PP#20: 2 Samuel 22:47, 50-51 (CEB)

Left: The Lord lives! Bless God, my rock!

Right: Let my God, the rock of my salvation, be lifted high!

Left: That's why I thank you, Lord, in the presence of the nations.

Right: That's why I sing praises to your name.

Left: You are the one who gives great victories to your king,

Right: Who shows faithful love to your anointed one—to David and to his descendants forever.

PP#21: Putting yourself before God's presence and under God's chisel:

1. When times are tough, the Lord is our Security

2. When days are dark, the Lord is our Light

3. When our walk is weak, the Lord is our Strength.

4. When our future is foggy, the Lord is our Hope

"The Lord lives! Bless God, my rock!" -2 Sam. 22:47

David looked down the generations of his descendants, and he remembers God's promise to the future generation. David remembers God's promise for a messiah to come, one anointed of David's line, who will bring God's salvation to all people. God will continue to save, to keep His promises, generation after generation.

When your future is hard to make out, when you don't see what lies ahead, trust in God's promises. Some of your future will always be a mystery, only seen clearly by God. But because He can see it, you can relax, have hope, praise Him. God's lovingkindness continues.

PP#22: *Same half-finished sculpture of PP#4.*

You are a piece of art that God is creating. You're not perfect, but you can have a heart after God's own heart. You need two things: a willingness to place yourself in the Master's presence, and a willingness to place yourself under the Master's sculpting.

At the end of his life, David addressed his leaders one last time. He did three things. First, he instructed his followers to construct the temple in Jerusalem for God. He had laid up supplies and made ready. He wanted a way for the people to continually be in God's presence. And this, by the way, is the sculpture I think that David wanted created to remember him. The temple was the sculpture David wanted! The second was to instruct Solomon, who was to succeed him as king, to keep his heart close to God. An instruction for all of us! And the third was to lead worship: he prayed and praised God in the assembly one last time. It gets no better than that!

David: Man of Passion and Destiny. David: a man after God's own heart. David: a man we can learn from how we, too can be men and women after God's own heart: placing ourselves in God's presence, and placing ourselves under God's chisel.

Amen!

Closing Song: "My Lighthouse"

Benediction: Pastor David

A blessing, using what the Bible says are David's last words, from 2 Samuel 23:

May the Lord make you like a light of sunrise on a morning with no clouds, like the bright gleam after the rain that brings grass from the ground. May your house be this way with God. May the Lord keep His eternal covenant with you, laid out and secure. May he provide every one of your victories, and bring to pass the desires of your heart, as he gives you a heart after His own.

Amen! Go in peace.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR AUGUST 21, 2016

Sermon: “The End of an Era”

Scriptures: 2 Samuel 22

Opening prayer

Introductions: What would you share if you knew it was going to be your last time to speak?

Background: David in his later years. Skim 2 Samuel 13-24.

Read 2 Samuel 22

1. Verses 2-7. When threatened, what was David’s response?
2. Describe what this would look in your life if you were to do this.
3. Verses 8-18. It’s natural to be afraid of an enemy’s strength. However, an enemy’s power pales in comparison to God’s power. How does God demonstrate His strength today?
4. How does God calm your fears?
5. Verse 20. What confidence does this verse give you?
6. Today during the sermon I will identify four themes in this psalm:

Vs 1- 25	When times are tough, the Lord is our Security
Vs 26-31	When our days are dark, the Lord is our Light.
Vs 32-46	When our walk is weak, the Lord is our Strength.
Vs 47-51	When our future is foggy, the Lord is our Hope.

What supports does God offer you as you face the threat of an enemy?
7. In what ways can you rely on these supports this week?
8. Application: What will you take away from these passages? How will you live it out?